

January 14, 2022

Mr. Todd Sexauer, Senior Environmental Planner
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118

Dear Mr. Sexauer,

Please find my remarks herein to address the Draft Environmental Report prepared for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project. Should you have questions or comments on my remarks, my contact information is included at the conclusion of this letter.

It must be noted with some irony that my comments are made on the very day that the report "Nature Climate Change", from the journal Nature, published since 1860, brings the current drought conditions to vivid focus. This current exceptionally dry Mega-drought is the worse since before the year 1,000 (or thereabouts). Nature staff are globally respected and renowned scientists and learned journalists. The report is available via internet from nature.com for your reference.

It must be noted without any irony that all of the existing reservoirs and dams and waterways and pipelines are nearly dry as a bone. Most of them were erected using the same objectives that are put forth for the Pacheco Expansion. Shasta Lake started filling in 1944 and was completed 1945-1948. But, how is it now? The San Luis Reservoir in 1967 and how is it now? Both at near historic lows even with consideration of some good rainfall these past few months.

As stated in the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion EIR Project Objectives (Executive Summary Section ES-3), the reason to build is for an Emergency Response and/or Long Term Water Supply Reliability and Ecosystem Improvement for Suitable Habitat for Steelhead Salmon, and in the world we live in today, this emergency is due to the Climate Crisis. The Crisis started while we weren't really paying attention, but rather busy building some of the existing projects, including those noted above, that now sit on desiccated land. Steelhead cannot swim on land.

The EIR proposes (Executive Summary Section ES-9) that the No Project alternative is the only option that would not meet the Project Objectives and that Alternative C would be the Environmentally Superior project to meet those Objectives. However, given that California, and the whole of the United States, has been drought conditions for the majority of the past century or so, and the Mega-drought is projected to continue for longer than any of us can imagine, there is little probability that the Pacheco project will have any water to capture, store and use.

It must be obvious that without any rain, this proposed expensive construction will have no water and thus cannot even partially fulfill the objectives. No matter how many emergency water storage and distribution projects are built, they will all sit empty waiting for rain. They all sit empty long after the landscape and ecosystems, have been destroyed just to sit and wait. Other options must be found.

With all respect to those in thirst, this means that this project is a huge expense with destruction of a large swath of California farmland and natural resource and habitat lands,

that cannot be recovered or restored, and should be considered as a fool's errand while we pray and wait for rain.

When will the wait be over? When will there be abundant rain or ample rain? Adequate rain? Any rain?

Additionally, I am in agreement with the statements made by the "Stop the Pacheco Dam Project" organization.

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